Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /103 W -------081608Z 116541 /44

O R 081444Z JUN 77 FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3921 INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, UN, CU, RQ, US

SUBJ: COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO

REF: USUN 1776

1. WITH THE PRC'S CHANGE FROM NON-PARTICIPATION TO SUPPORT OF COMMITTEE OF 24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO (AS STATED BY THE PRC C-24 REP ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1976) AND IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA, WHICH WOULD LEAD US TO EXPECT ACTIVE ETHIOPIAN OPPOSITION TO THE US POSITION ON PUERTO RICO INSTEAD OF THE ABSTENTION WE EXPECTED LAST YEAR, USUN NOW ESTIMATES THAT WE WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO COUNT ON ACHIEVING POSTPONEMENT OF ACTION ON A CUBAN-INSPIRED RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO IN THE C-24. WE CONTINUE TO ESTIMATE DEFEAT FOR THE US POSITION ON A VOTE ON A HOSTILE RESOLUTION.

2. VOTING ESTIMATE: THERE FOLLOWS OUR LATEST ESTIMATE ON HOW C-24 MEMBERS WOULD VOTE ON A MOTION TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO, WHICH WOULD FOLLOW STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS PETITIONERS AND CUBA, ET.AL., AND THE SUBSEQUENT TABLING OF A RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO, AND OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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ESTIMATE OF HOW C-24 MEMBERS WOULD VOTE ON A CUBAN-INSPIRED RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO.

3. COUNTRY POSTPONEMENT HOSTILE RESOLUTION

AFGHANISTAN Y N-

AUSTRALIA Y N

BULGARIA N Y

CHILE Y- N-

CHINA N Y

CONGO N Y

CUBA N Y

CZECHOSLOVAKIA N Y

ETHIOPIA N Y

FIJI Y N

INDIA Y A&

INDONESIA Y N

IRAN Y N

IRAQ N Y

IVORY COAST Y N

MALI N& Y

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NORWAY Y N

SIERRA LEONE Y N

SYRIA N Y

TANZANIA N Y

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO A A

TUNISIA Y - A

USSR N Y

YUGOSLAVIA A- A-

TOTAL 11-11-2 11-9-4

"-" INDICATED THE POSSIBILITY OF A VOTE LESS SATISFACTORY TO US, "&" INDICATES THE POSSIBILITY OF A VOTE MORE SATISFACTORY TO US.

4. COMMENT: THE KEY TO THE OUTCOME OF C-24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO IS CUBA. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO UNDERTAKE LOBBYING IN SELECTED COMMITTEE OF 24 CAPITALS TO INSURE THAT ALL CONCERNED C-24 MEMBERS ARE AWARE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN US POLICY CONCERNING UN CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO. WIDESPREAD PRESS COVERAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF PUERTO

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RICO'S STATEMENTS THAT HE WILL NOT DEFEND COMMONWEALTH STATUS, WHICH HE REGARDS AS HAVING "COLONIAL VESTIGES," THE PROBABILITY THAT SOME STATEHOOD ADVOCATES WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO CONDEMN COMMONWEALTH, AND THE ABSENCE OF SUSTAINED SYSTEMATIC LOBBYING ON PUERTO RICO IN RECENT MONTHS MAKE LOBBYING NOW DESIRABLE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO VRAALSEN'S SUGGESTION REPORTED REFTEL, USUN HAS PREPARED THE DRAFT STATEMENT ON PUERTO RICO WHICH FOLLOWS IN PARA 6, WHICH IF THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS, WE PROPOSE TO PROVIDE TO VRAALSEN ON THURSDAY, JUNE 9, BEFORE HE DEPARTS FOR TWO MONTHS.

WE PROPOSE IN INFORM VRAALSEN THAT WE WISH TO PROCEED AS LAST YEAR, THAT IS WITH NORWAY NEGOTIATING THE TEXT WITH CUBA WITHOUT ANY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF US INVOLVEMENT. THE STATEMENT WOULD BE READ BY THE C-24

CHAIRMAN AS LAST YEAR.

6. DRAFT STATEMENT:

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO CONCLUDE ITS WORK FOR THE CURRENT YEAR IN CONFIDENTIAL

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ORDER TO SUBMIT ITS REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY AS WELL AS THE NEED TO GIVE CAREFUL ATTENTION TO ALL MATTERS UNDER ITS CONSIDERATION: BEARING IN MIND ITS RESOLUTIONS OF 28 AUGUST 1972 AND 30 AUGUST 1973 CONCERNING PUERTO RICO; AND THE CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 7, 1976; REAFFIRMING THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) OF 14 DECEMBER 1960 AND 1541 (XV) OF 15 DECEMBER 1960 AND OTHER RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND BY VIRTUE OF THAT RIGHT TO FREELY DETERMINE ITS POLITICAL STATUS AND FREELY PURSUE ITS ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT; NOTING THE DECISIONS ON PUERTO RICO APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NONALIGNED COUNTRIES, HELD AT LIMA IN 1975, AND BY THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT OF NONALIGNED COUNTRIES, HELD AT COLOMBO IN 1976 AND BY THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NONALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE IN NEW DELHI IN 1976; TAKING NOTE OF THE ELECTIONS HELD IN PUERTO RICO IN 1976 IN WHICH THE INDEPENDENCE PARTIES OBTAINED 6 PERCENT OF THE VOTE AND OF STATEMENTS OF UNITED STATES POLICY TO SUPPORT WHATEVER STATUS THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO WISH; AND BEARING IN MIND THE REPORT PREPARED BY THE RAPPORTEUR IN 1974, AND THE STATE-MENTS MADE DURING THE DEBATE ON THE ITEM, AND CONSULTATIONS AMONG MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE DECIDES TO TAKE NOTE OF THE RAPPORTEUR'S UPDATE OF THE 1974 REPORT AND TO ADJOURN CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM. END TEXT.

7. WE ASSUME THE ABOVE FORMULA WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE CUBANS BUT WOULD HOPE TO FALL BACK TO A FORMULA IN WHICH THE COMMITTEE WOULD DECIDE TO TAKE NOTE OF THE UPDATE OF THE REPORT AND RESUME CONSIDERATION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ITEM AT ITS NEXT SESSION. THE FOLLOWING ARE PROBABLY THE UNACCEPTABLE ELEMENTS: REFERENCE TO 1541, REFERENCE TO PUERTO RICAN ELECTIONS, REFERENCE TO US POLICY, AND FAILURE TO SET A DATE FOR RESUMING CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ARE REQUESTED ASAP. YOUNG

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